**3.7 TENNESSEE RIVER BASIN**
**LITTLE RIVER – ELLEJOY CREEK**

# DESCRIPTION and EXTENT OF PROBLEM

According to the 1998 303(d) List, more than 97 miles are partially supporting and more than 70 miles are not supporting of the Little River watershed due to sediment and nutrient loadings, organic enrichment, and habitat alteration caused by agriculture and land development activities. In the Little River – Ellejoy Creek subwatershed, agriculture is the major source of impairment, with construction ranking second.

| 1998 303(d) LIST WATERSHED NAME | SOURCES |
|---|---|
| Ellejoy Creek | agriculture & land development |
| Crooked Creek | pasture & failing septic systems |
| Pistol Creek | agriculture/land development & urban runoff |
| Stock Creek | agriculture & failing septic systems |
| Short Creek | construction |

## SUBWATERSHED ROTATIONAL PLAN

The Little River – Ellejoy Creek subwatershed is currently receiving 319 funding through a FY-99 UWA grant. The Ellejoy Creek subwatershed was selected because of its agricultural predominance. As the FY-99 UWA grant progresses the project manager, Blount County SCD, will be able to determine, with assistance from TDEC, which Little River subwatershed should be addressed next with UWA funding. As is common in most of the UWA watersheds agricultural BMP activity is more advanced than other nonpoint source issues. Yet, time should demonstrate a growing level of expertise in the other nonpoint source issues (i.e. land development, failing septic systems, and urban runoff), thereby allowing other 303(d) listed subwatersheds, which are less agriculturally oriented, to be addressed with UWA funds.

The next watershed to be addressed with UWA funds could be Crooked Fork. This subwatershed is more diverse in its nonpoint source issues. As failing septic systems and construction issues are better understood by local partners, which is being initiated by another 319 project addressing urban runoff issues in this watershed, the likelihood of these subwatersheds being successfully treated increases. Once these subwatersheds, along with Pistol Creek, have been addressed with sufficient BMP implementation they should have a good chance of being removed from the 303(d) List.

# COOPERATING PARTNERS

| Partners | Abbreviations |
|---|---|
| Blount County government | |
| Blount County Soil Conservation District | SCD |
| City of Alcoa | |
| City of Maryville | |
| Keep Blount Beautiful | |
| Local developers & home builders | |
| Local landowners | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Smoky Mountain RC&D Council | RC&D |
| Tennessee Department of Agriculture | |
| Ag Resources Conservation Program | TDA-ARC |
| Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation | |
| Division of Ground Water Protection | TDEC-GWP |
| Division of Water Pollution Control | TDEC-WPC |
| Division of Water Supply | |
| Ground Water Management Section | TDEC-DWS-GWMS |
| Tennessee Department of Health | |
| Division of Lab Services | TDH-DLS |
| Tennessee Home Builders Association | THBA |
| Tennessee Valley Authority | TVA |
| Resource Stewardship Watershed Team Program | |
| U.S. Department of Agriculture | |
| Natural Resource Conservation Service | USDA-NRCS |
| U.T. Institute of Agriculture | UTIA |
| U.T. County Technical Assistance Service | UT-CTAS |

### Blount County government

As Blount County residential and commercial growth continues to take the remaining farmlands of the Little River-Ellejoy Creek watershed, its officials and residents will need to remain aware of and protect the existing Ag-related remediation work already in place. More importantly, government officials need to assume a leadership role in the nonpoint source effort by establishing water quality control measures for all construction sites and stormwater problem areas as growth continues.

### Blount County Soil Conservation District

The SCD is a partner in the effort to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the local waters. The SCD, as a primary state contractor, can provide a significant amount of financial assistance to local water quality efforts. Through its direct interaction with the local NRCS district conservationist, the SCD can also direct technical as well as administrative assistance to local water quality projects. The SCD also serves as a leader in the effort to increase water quality education of the local citizens and operators.

### Cities of Alcoa & Maryville

City officials will be encouraged to work with local landowners and contractors to, at least, investigate the possibilities of installing BMPs to reduce construction and urban-related runoff. Even though initial BMPs implemented in the watershed will be of an agricultural nature, the city officials, landowners, and contractors will be provided an opportunity to learn how these BMPs can be converted to more urbanized uses. By doing so, the city will be better informed and will be more likely to participate in subsequent water quality abatement and remediation efforts.

### Keep Blount Beautiful

Keep Blount Beautiful (KBB) is a local chapter of the national Keep America Beautiful program. KBB has completed a successful illegal dumpsite cleanup program where it not only inventoried all of the illegal dumpsites in the county, but also corrected them. It

has kept the initiation of new illegal dumpsites to a minimum in the face of higher landfill tipping fees.

This type of success is based upon strong local citizens support. KBB would be a partner for future watershed efforts because of its strong environmental stewardship and its ability to promote local support through public awareness campaigns.

**Local developers & home builders**
Blount County is rapidly growing with many rural areas becoming sub-urbanized. Agricultural-related problems are giving way to construction and urban runoff problems, an issue, which can be minimized if developers, contractors, and home builders make the concerted effort to eliminate sediment loadings and high stormwater discharges. The TDA-NPS Program has coordinated with local officials, through a FY-99 grant project to introduce nonpoint source technologies to the area.

**Local landowners**
Landowners will be requested to participate in the implementation of BMPs by allowing the BMP to be placed on their property, contributing to the construction of the BMP through in-kind services, and maintaining the BMP for a pre-determined or indefinite period of time. These same landowners will also be required to allow others to visit the BMP once it has been fully constructed.

**Smoky Mountain RC&D Council**
The local RC&D Council will manage the project as well as BMP implementation, and public awareness. The RC&D's ability in these areas will be crucial to the generation of projects now and in the future.

## CURRENT 319 PROJECTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FY-99 | Lambert Estates STEP Sewer System Project | City of Maryville |
| FY-99(UWA) | Little River Water Quality Restoration Project: Ellejoy Cr. | BCSCD |

## CURRENT MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

TDEC-WPC five-year watershed management approach
TDH-DLS pre- and post- BMP monitoring

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- UWA projects have been implemented in all 303(d) listed subwatersheds with a large portion of the required pollutant source sites having been addressed.
- Post BMP implementation monitoring results are indicating an overall improvement of the water quality of the streams directly affected by BMP implementation.
- The subwatersheds once 303(d) listed have been removed due to sufficient water quality improvements.

# MILESTONES

## Long Term Goal 1.

***Hold regularly scheduled meetings with stakeholders, to create new partnerships, strengthen existing partnerships and to foster greater trust, commitment and accountability.***

- **Action**: Conduct an annual priority watershed partners meeting for project coordination.
  Lead: TDA-NPS Program
  Key Partners: TDEC-WPC; USDA-NRCS; RC&D; SCDs; TVA; local governments
  Year(s): 2001-2005

- **Action**: Develop a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy.
  Lead: TDA-NPS Program
  Key Partners: TDEC-WPC; USDA-NRCS; TDEC-DWS-GWMS
  Year(s): 2001

## Long Term Goal 3.

***Restore all waters impaired by nonpoint sources that are listed on the 1998 303(d) List to the condition of fully supporting their designated uses by 2015, in cooperation with local, state and federal partners.***

- **Action**: 100% of the needed agricultural BMPs will have be implemented in the Little River-Ellejoy Creek.
  Lead: USDA-NRCS; RC&D; SCDs; TVA; local governments
  Key Partners: TDA-NPS Program TDEC-WPC
  Year(s): 2005

- **Action**: 60% of the needed agricultural, septic systems, and construction BMPs will be implemented in the Little River watershed.
  Lead: USDA-NRCS; RC&D; SCDs; TVA; local governments
  Key Partners: TDA-NPS Program TDEC-WPC
  Year(s): 2010

## Long Term Goal 5.

***Improve the knowledge of stakeholders and citizens concerning the origins, magnitude, and prevention of nonpoint source pollution.***

- **Action**: Develop at least two educational projects to educate the local citizens, landowners, and elected officials in the Little River-Ellejoy Creek subwatershed.
  Lead: TDA-NPS Program
  Key Partner: RC&D; USDA-NRCS; SCDs and TVA
  Year(s): 2005

## Long Term Goal 7.

***Use the maximum allowable percentage of funding annually to assist partners with water quality monitoring and assessment, for the duration of the 319 program.***

- **Action**: Pre-BMP implementation monitoring will have been completed and post-BMP implementation monitoring will be in progress in the Little River-Ellejoy Creek subwatershed.
  Lead: TDEC-WPC and TDH-DLS
  Key Partners: TDA-NPS Program, USDA-NRCS
  Year(s): 2002

**Action**: Post-BMP implementation monitoring will have been completed in the Little River- Ellejoy Creek subwatershed.
Lead: TDEC-WPC and TDH-DLS
Key Partners: TDA-NPS Program, USDA-NRCS
Year(s): 2005

- **Action**: 100% of the Little River – Ellejoy Creek subwatershed will be fully supporting its designated uses.
  Lead: TDEC-WPC and TDH-DLS
  Key Partners: RC&D; SCDs; USDA-NRCS; TVA;TDA-NPS Program
Year(s): 2005

- **Action**: 20% of the Little River watershed will be fully supporting its designated uses.
  Lead: TDEC-WPC and TDH-DLS
  Key Partners: RC&D; SCDs; USDA-NRCS; TVA;TDA-NPS Program
  Year(s): 2010